

## Mrs. Hall's Lineage Traced To Boston Tea Party Hero



George Dowling Love

In the first installment of this series tracing the eminent lineage of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall it was shown by records that the widow who stands accused of having slain her husband, the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall, and his paramour, Mrs. Eleanor Mills, may have the royal blood of the Norman conquerors coursing in her veins. In today's installment the noble American lineage of Mrs. Hall is traced, showing how intricately the lives of her ancestors were woven with the making of American history. One of them played a pivotal role in the wars of the Revolution and of 1812.

By GEORGE DOWLING LOVE

To the average American woman, kinship with a family the original ancestor of which came to America as early as 1674, as was the case with Erasmus Stevens, the great-great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Frances Nole (Stevens) Hall, would be sufficient to give her a firmly intrenched social position. Her ancestors of two or more centuries ago were leading men in the affairs of church and state and in the armed forces of the American colonies.

Up to the time of the murder of the Rev. Edward Wheeler Hall and his companion in an illicit love affair, members of the family of Mrs. Hall were men and women of spotless reputation.

Mrs. Hall's family tree is so well established that none question her right to membership in such exclusive social and patriotic organizations as the Colonial Dames of America, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Society of the War of 1812.

### Ancestor Patriot

Her privilege of membership in the latter two organizations is by descent from Ebenezer Stevens, a distinguished officer and aide to Marquis de Lafayette in the American Revolution, and major general in charge of a division of New

York militia during the War of 1812.

This Ebenezer Stevens, who was a great-grandfather of Mrs. Hall is believed to have laid the foundations for the fortune now possessed by her, and which she will pour out in an effort to clear her name of suspicion in connection with the death of her husband.

Erasmus Stevens, a still earlier ancestor of Mrs. Hall, was the first juror named of Boston citizens who composed the jury of the year 1684 or 1685. The files of the old Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, No. 26,196, indicate the other jurors also were men of prominence in early Boston.

Erasmus Stevens was appointed "ensigne" of a company at Mar-

blehead, under Capt. Ward and Lieut. Legge, October 10, 1683, when there was fear of an Indian attack. On the same date John Stephens was appointed "Ensigne of ye foote company in Andover under the conduct of Dudley Bradstreet, Captain (Andover) Thomas Chandler, lieutenant."

Court records of that period show Erasmus Stevens was associated with Sir William Phips.

ancestor of Mrs. Hall within the last 150 years was Col. Ebenezer Stevens, her great-grandfather, and fourth in descent from Arasmus Stevens, founder of the family in America. Because of his distinguished public service, already touched upon in passing, a more detailed account will now be presented.

This Ebenezer Stevens was a young man of 22 when the British merchant ships arrived in Boston Harbor with cargoes of tea in 1773. He was a member of the historic tea party who on December 16, 1773, threw the cargoes of tea into the harbor. He soon afterward removed to Providence, R. I., probably on account of his part in the affair.

When the news of the Battle of Lexington reached him he at once



The Stevens Coat of Arms

## Democrats Boom Smith For Office Despite Plea

By FRANK MALLIN

While political leaders of both parties are carefully studying today the remarks of Gov. Smith at the dinner given in his honor in Buffalo Saturday night when he pleaded not to be renominated there is no doubt among the Democrats that he will again head their state ticket.

They agree with the governor that "the Republican party is leaderless and without one definite principle to which it can cling and without achievement and on the defensive." Renominating him at the convention in Syracuse next month, therefore, will not necessarily mean no other Democrat could clinch the state's highest political office.

It is because the party feels, to began organizing artillery companies.

Two companies of artillery and one of artificers were raised by him. He was commissioned a first lieutenant, May 8, 1775, by the General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Going to Boston, under Gen. Nathaniel Greene, he was stationed at Roxbury, toward the end of 1775, and remained there until his company was disbanded. Then he

paraphrase the latest form of popular tribute, that there is a little bit of Al Smith in every Democrat, but only one Al Smith. And they want all of that Al Smith.

Indications this year point to a Democratic sweep, far more impressive than that of the Republicans during the Presidential election when the office was last contested and all Democrats, except Smith, lost out. The unequal record made by the governor and his party in economy, public welfare and improvements, it is conceded, have assured this.

When the governor declared that "great political honors are above the heads of all and they must come downward and seek the man," the Democrats point out, he hit the nail squarely on the head. That, they say, is the case now in New York, where it is planned to conscript him, and will be the situation throughout the country when the national party meets to name its Presidential candidate.

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